THE STRUCTURE OF BIOTIN*

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During the past year my associates and I have been working on the structure of biotin and I should like
to take this opportunity of presenting to you the results of this study. In 1940, our group at Cornell
University Medical College, in collaboration with Dr. Paul György and Catharine S. Rose at Western
Reserve, had demonstrated that biotin, the yeast-growth
substance which had been isolated by Kögl, was actu-
ally identical with vitamin H.1 2 3 Vitamin H was the
name which had been given by György to the fac-

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tor present in liver, yeast and various foods which was
capable of preventing the fatal syndrome resulting
from the feeding of large amounts of raw egg white,
a syndrome found to occur in all species studied. We
were thus able to show that biotin was involved in
animal metabolism and through this work biotin be-
came recognized as a member of the vitamin B-com-
plex. The full role in nutrition of this newcomer to
the group of vitamins is not fully understood, yet
there are indications that it may be extremely im-
portant. There are now scores of laboratories working
on this compound and within the next year or two
much light should be thrown on the significance of this
vitamin. With the demonstration of the identity of
vitamin H with biotin we undertook a study of the
chemical nature of this compound and have recorded
from time to time some of our chemical findings. We